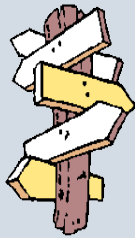


SSSAB Newsletter

Solihull Schools' Strategic Accountability Board

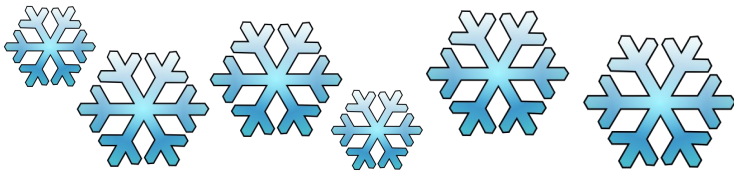
LA Update

- A summary of the recent Ofsted SEND inspection was circulated.
- Following a consultation about Ofsted going straight to two day inspections for some schools this had now happened in several schools.
- The successful bid for funding to support narrowing the gap in Maths had started with NLEs visiting the schools participating. Phil Leivers chairs the Challenge Board and Jacque Nicholls chairs the Progress Board. A bid for funding around inclusion and SEND will be submitted to the next bidding round in January 2018.
- Following consultation with the local community a report would be submitted at Councillor Meeson's decision-making session around Chapelfields and Daylesford Schools merging together.
- Given the changes in funding the council will no longer deliver school improvement but will be monitoring performance and intervening where necessary. A working party will rewrite Solihull's School Improvement Strategy.



National Funding Formula Update

- The key difference from 1st April 2018 is that the blocks that fund the Education Service are now effectively ring fenced.
- The hourly rate for school nursery funding will increase from £3.80 to £3.90 per hour and the £250,000 inclusion fund will be retained, together with a £100,000 contingency.
- Forum had the view that there is a 0.5% guaranteed increase on the schools' side and they wanted to translate that through the High Needs Block top-up funding.
- Forum had agreed to move to the National Funding Formula and to try and emulate it as far as possible for 2018-19. It is guaranteed that there will be a minimum funding of £4,600 for secondary schools and £3,300 for primary schools. The key guarantee for primaries is a 0.5% increase per pupil baseline.
- Schools should receive their NFF budgets shortly after Christmas.
- Central Services now has its own ring-fenced block so now the dialogue with the LA is around whether it is being used effectively to meet schools' needs and LA requirements.
- The General Duties item is top sliced off schools' budgets. It equates to 1.5% of mainstream primary budget. The Director of Resources has suggested that £66 is required for 2018-19, which is exactly in line with the DfE grant that this top-slice is intended to replace. The current top-slice is £60 per pupil, but that only equates to two terms – the grant changes came into place September 2017, so the proposed £6 increase is much less than a full year impact.

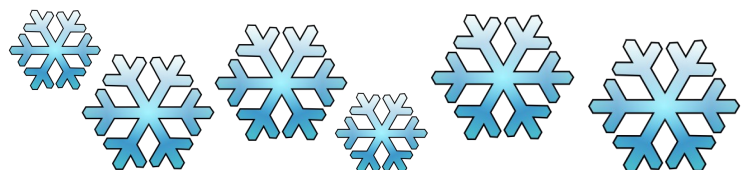


Facilities Time

- Ian Backhouse gave an update and explained what the charge for Facilities Time is used for.
- The current fee of £7.50 per pupil would be around £3.50 per pupil if all schools purchased it. This academic year's charge is being reviewed because there has been an increase in income from academies.
- Facilities Time could be made more attractive to academies by offering it to those currently not subscribing at a discounted rate of £3.50 per pupil for the first year. This could attract more academies which would then drive down the cost for all schools in the second year. There would be a dual rate for one year and there would be a reduction in the amount per pupil in the following year. Ian Backhouse was asked to follow this up via Phil Leivers.

Update from Councillor Ken Meeson

- Councillor Meeson explained the difference between the 'Fair Funding for Solihull Schools' group and the council's Fair Funding group as there had been some confusion in the press.
- The outcome of the f40 group's survey was for it to continue.



Alternative Provision Clarification

There was a discussion about criteria for Alternative Provision and SSSAB were informed that clear criteria would be established in the New Year. In the meantime a document would be produced depicting what each provider does and their entry requirements.

For more information about any of the above please check out the minutes on SSSAB's website at: <http://socialsolihull.org.uk/schools/sab>